

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Official Records

**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1605th
MEETING**

*Thursday, 6 October 1966,
at 11 a.m.*



NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Election of the Vice-Chairman (concluded) . . .</i>	49
<i>Agenda item 65:</i>	
<i>Question of South West Africa: report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (concluded)</i>	
<i>Draft report of the Fourth Committee on the hearing of petitioners</i>	49
<i>Organization of work</i>	50

Chairman: Mr. FAKHREDDINE Mohamed (Sudan).

Election of the Vice-Chairman (concluded)

1. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that, in accordance with its decision at the previous meeting, the Committee would now hold the election for Vice-Chairman, which had been postponed to allow for further consultations.
2. Mr. BRUCE (Togo) said that, having been Vice-Chairman of the Fourth Committee during the twentieth session of the General Assembly, he now had the honour of nominating for that office Mr. Neville Kanakararatne, representative of Ceylon, a well-known and respected figure in the United Nations. With his academic background and his experience as a jurist, as representative of his country in the Fourth Committee in 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960, and as Legal Adviser to the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Congo, to the Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force in Gaza and to the Commander of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus, Mr. Kanakararatne could make a valuable contribution to the work of the Fourth Committee. It was to be hoped, therefore, that he would be elected unanimously.
3. Mr. RICHARDSON (Jamaica) supported the nomination of Mr. Kanakararatne. During the consultations held between representatives on the election of a Vice-Chairman, Jamaica, in response to the wishes of the Latin American countries, had agreed to put forward the name of Mr. Barnett for that office but, once the Afro-Asian group had expressed their intention of presenting a candidate, it had hastened to withdraw that nomination so that Mr. Kanakararatne could be elected unanimously. Nevertheless, he stressed that such a withdrawal did not mean that the Latin American countries considered that their representation among the officers of the Main Committees was either adequate or excessive.

4. Mr. LORINC (Hungary), Mr. AZAD (India) and Miss IMRU (Ethiopia) supported the nomination of Mr. Kanakararatne.

Mr. Kanakararatne (Ceylon) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

5. Mr. KANAKARATNE (Ceylon) expressed his gratitude to the members of the Committee for the unanimous vote of confidence they had given him. He also thanked the countries which had supported his nomination, and the representative of Jamaica for his co-operative attitude.

6. In returning to the Fourth Committee, he noted with satisfaction that many countries which formerly had been represented by petitioners now occupied a seat in the Committee as sovereign States. Ceylon had done everything in its power to help the liberation of those peoples.

AGENDA ITEM 65

Question of South West Africa: report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (concluded)

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE ON THE HEARING OF PETITIONERS (A/C.4/L.834)

7. Mr. ESFANDIARY (Iran), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Fourth Committee on the hearing of petitioners (A/C.4/L.834), in accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly at its 1414th plenary meeting. At its 1601st to 1604th meetings, the Fourth Committee had heard in all six petitioners, whose statements appeared in the pertinent summary records.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee adopted the draft report (A/C.4/L.834).

It was so decided.

9. Mr. DIALLO Seydou (Guinea) recalled that one of the petitioners had suggested (1601st meeting) that the Committee should set up a body to determine the importance and representative character of the petitioners. He supported that suggestion.

10. Mr. FOUM (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the establishment of such a body would imply a limitation of the right of freedom fighters to come to the United Nations to testify about the situation of their peoples. On the contrary, the United Nations should give every facility to petitioners and encourage them to come and present their petitions.

11. The CHAIRMAN proposed that consideration of the suggestion should be postponed.

12. Mr. DIALLO Seydou (Guinea) pointed out that his delegation was extremely receptive to the complaints of petitioners; he agreed to withdraw his proposal.

Organization of work (A/C.4/665)

13. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at its 1415th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1966, the General Assembly had allocated to the Fourth Committee, as item 10 in the list appearing in the letter from the President of the Assembly (A/C.4/665), the chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/6300/Rev.1) relating to specific Territories. Thus, before deciding on the order of priorities for their consideration, the Committee should decide how it would deal with the various chapters of the report.

14. With regard to the chapter on South West Africa, members of the Committee were aware that at its 1414th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1966, the General Assembly had decided that the question of South West Africa should be discussed in plenary meetings, on the understanding that the petitioners requesting to speak on the item would be heard in the Fourth Committee. That item had now been disposed of by the Fourth Committee.

15. Furthermore, with regard to the chapter of the Special Committee's report on Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, the Committee, following its decision (1596th meeting), to take up that item separately and as a matter of priority, had already concluded its study of it.

16. With regard to the procedure to be followed for the consideration of the remaining chapters of the Special Committee's report under item 10, as well as the order of priorities to be adopted for the consideration of the various items allocated, the Committee, at its opening meeting, had decided to take up those matters at a subsequent meeting.

17. It would be noted that the following questions, which were covered by the pertinent chapters of the Special Committee's report, were shown as separate items in the list of agenda items allocated to the Fourth Committee: (i) the question of Territories under Portuguese administration; (ii) the question of Fiji; (iii) the question of Oman. In view of the volume of work which the Committee was expected to complete before the end of its current session, and subject to any comments by members, he suggested that the remaining chapters of the Special Committee's report should be discussed separately

as follows: (1) Southern Rhodesia; (2) Aden; (3) the chapters relating to other Territories together.

18. With regard to the chapters on other Territories, his suggestion that they should be discussed together as one item was based on the procedure followed by the Committee at its twentieth session and took account of the heavy workload with which the Committee was faced at the current session. He would emphasize that such a procedure would not of course preclude the submission and consideration of draft resolutions dealing with individual Territories.

19. As members were aware, the third group of Territories which he had suggested should be considered together as one item included: (i) Equatorial Guinea; (ii) Spanish Sahara and Ifni; (iii) French Somaliland; (iv) Gibraltar; (v) Mauritius, Seychelles and St. Helena; (vi) the Territories in the Pacific Ocean area and in the Caribbean Sea area, and also the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), which had been the subject of consideration by the Special Committee.

20. In that connexion, he pointed out that the chapters of the Special Committee's report on the Trust Territories of New Guinea and Nauru were also related to item 1 in document A/C.4/665, "Report of the Trusteeship Council".

21. In making those suggestions, he was not indicating any order of priority for the discussion of the chapters. As he had stated, the question of priorities would be considered after the Committee had decided how to organize the debate on the various chapters of the report. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee approved his suggestions.

It was so decided.

22. The CHAIRMAN said that the Fourth Committee would now consider the order of priorities in which the various items would be discussed. He understood that there was general agreement to take up the question of Southern Rhodesia as the first item and then the question of Aden. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee approved that suggestion.

It was so decided.

23. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should consider the priorities for the remaining items at a subsequent meeting, bearing in mind that the Special Committee had yet to complete consideration of some of the items on its agenda for the current session. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed to that procedure and that, consequently, it would begin consideration of the question of Southern Rhodesia at its next meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.